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**To:** [R6\\_DWH\\_info@epa.gov](mailto:R6_DWH_info@epa.gov)  
**Subject:** Fw: May 14, 2010, Daily Update on EPA Activities  
**Date:** 07/18/2010 12:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Summary of EPA activities to date May 14.doc](#)

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**From:** David Bary/R6/USEPA/US  
**To:** Carmen Assunto/R6/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Date:** 05/15/2010 10:17 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: May 14, 2010, Daily Update on EPA Activities

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**From:** EOC Public Information  
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**Date:** 05/15/2010 09:32 AM  
**Subject:** May 14, 2010, Daily Update on EPA Activities

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## ***EPA's Response to the BP Oil Release***

### **EPA's Initial Actions**

On April 22, EPA's regional office (covers Louisiana) began preparations to deploy staff to the Gulf Coast area in support of the Coast Guard's response efforts.

EPA began preparations for air monitoring (controlled burning and particulate matter, VOCs from oil on beaches) several days later and continue daily at this time.

On April 23, EPA participated in the National Response Team meeting on the emerging crisis.

Soon after, EPA Administrator Jackson directed the agency's Emergency Operations Center to begin mobilize. She also directed regional staff to plan in Regions 4 and 6 for full scale involvement on the ground and our regional emergency operations centers was activated.

To date, odor complaints from the Gulf Coast have not been attributed to oil release – per EPA sampling.

On April 28, EPA deployed their twin-engine plane – the ASPECT – to monitor air quality associated with the in situ burn. ASPECT air missions continue to collect chemical, photo and IR (infrared) data in the Gulf Coast area.

April 30, EPA launches site dedicated to EPA's response efforts. [www.epa.gov/bpspill](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill)

#### **May 14, 2010 Actions to Date**

##### **EPA personnel activated in regions and headquarters: 140**

- EPA posting data results, helpful text, statement on results: [www.epa.gov/bpspill](http://www.epa.gov/bpspill)

*Air monitoring conducted through May 13, 2010, has found that air quality on the Gulf coastline is normal for this time of year.*

*Nearshore water sampling conducted through May 7, 2010, found that water quality does not pose increased risk to aquatic life.*

*Sediment samples taken through May 9, 2010, indicate that there may be risks to aquatic life from pollutants in sediment at some locations. It is unknown whether the sediment contamination resulted from the BP Spill or was already present.*

- On May 13, OSWER AA Mathy Stanislaus and other senior leaders participated in community meetings in Port Sulphur and Dulac, La.
- On May 12, Administrator Jackson held a press conference with subject matter experts to discuss dispersants.
- On May 12, Mathy Stanislaus and other senior HQ leaders participated in a community meeting in Ocean Springs, Miss., with representatives from other federal agencies.
- Administrator Jackson visited Louisiana on May 10 and 11 to participate in a series of meetings and events. On May 10, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe participated in White House meeting w/POTUS.
- EPA deploying regional intergovernmental, community and tribal liaisons to Houma, La.
- Subsea dispersant testing has ended. A 24-hour subsea dispersant test was completed on May 11 and results are expected on May 12. On May 13, the decision on conditional approval of full-scale subsurface dispersant use was elevated to the NRT Chair. NRT supported the conditional approval with an adaptive monitoring program. A USCG/EPA addendum for the directive was completed and signed to address additional requirements as a result of testing data. The addendum was also posted on the Web.
- Due to weather conditions, no surface dispersants are expected to be applied for May 14 and 15.
- EPA established ecological trigger information a "shut down point" of dispersant application for sea urchins, brine shrimp, rotifers (small crustaceans), microscopic aquatic animal and other indicators of the health of a marine environment.
- EPA Region 4 on standby for fish tissue sampling, (NOAA phone request), no formal request to date.
- Air monitoring ongoing in Regions 4&6
  - As of May 14, ASPECT planes remain at their base in Texas.
  - Air sampling data analyzed every 24 hrs. Reviewed daily for field quality analysis, uploaded to EPA HQ for review.
  - Elevated VOC or PM levels of concern immediately reported, none to date.
  - TAGA buses have surveyed all the potential affected counties from western Mississippi to Florida. To date no elevations above typical VOC levels for the areas have been observed. As of May 14, one TAGA bus has been requested to conduct monitoring in Louisiana.
  - Chalmette operations now have equipment to conduct benzene monitoring if VOC levels exceed the 10 PPM action level.
  - Seven in-situ burns were attempted on May 7; five were successful. No burns took place May 8-13. No

burns took place May 14 because of weather conditions.

- Identified and explained minor data error in reporting elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide. Explanation was added to air data page of [epa.gov/bpspill](http://epa.gov/bpspill). HQ PIO worked with HQ press secretary and EPA press representative at JIC to respond to media inquiries on hydrogen sulfide data.
- EPA boats arrived at Mobile, Ala., May 3, 2010. Ongoing coastal zone water/sediment sampling in Reg 4 & Reg 6. Historical Gulf Coast ecological conditions are being established from the National Coastal Condition Assessment and EPA.
- Post-impact water sampling plans are being discussed among EPA, the States with a May 10 completion date; draft plan was expected on May 7.
- National Coastline Condition Assessment program: directs coastal sampling every four years with state agencies.
- 5-7 additional Florida beach locations set for sampling.
- Five EPA staff from Region 4 are involved in a multi-agency technical group to work on natural resources damage assessment plans for shoreline assessment.
- R6 is proposing assistance from OW of the additional of a monitoring/sampling design for near shore marine waters for both R4 and R6. OW will examine similar near shore sampling activities by NOAA to evaluate need.
- R6 is revising sampling plan to include testing for pesticides and PCBs.
- R4 and R6 requested that OW develop desk statement on EPA position on NPDES permits from discharges from oil/water separators.
- On May 7, posted desk statement on dispersants to [epa.gov/bpspill](http://epa.gov/bpspill).
- On May 9, posted sediment data from May 1 and 2. Sampling results indicate that there may be risks to aquatic life near Plaquemines Parish, La.
- On May 12, posted sediment data from May 6.
- Water sampling plans are being adjusted to include sampling and analysis of dispersant constituents. The plan was submitted to the Unified Command for review on May 12.
- EPA is prepared to assist USCG and LDEQ with shoreline assessment and cleanup and use of near-shore countermeasures.
- As of May 14, Louisiana has submitted a barrier island proposal to the Army Corps of Engineers. As Louisiana is the permitting applicant, the state would be liable for any mishaps if the barrier islands are constructed. Mississippi has significant concerns related to salinity and hydrology changes in coastal waters.
- EPA continues oversight of BP's plans to minimize impact to the environment as response teams deploy boom off the coast of Louisiana and stage to deploy rapid response teams to shorelines affected by oil.
- Region 6 is coordinating with USCG to address volunteer training issues.
- EPA reviewed revised waste management/disposal plan submitted by BP, which was approved by Unified Command. BP will begin to execute the plan.
- EPA Region 4 has a list of possible waste staging areas as research continues on landfill options potential EJ, other surrounding community concerns and issues, and is communicating with state partners.
- On May 10, EOC solid waste, HQ and Regions 4 and 6 had conference call to discuss EJ concerns regarding waste management facilities. Regional EJ coordinators will identify communities w/EJ concerns based on list of waste management facilities being developed by HQ.
- EPA is leading a waste group in an established environmental branch of the unified command post.
- R4 sent revised Alabama-Mississippi-Florida waste plan to state partners and EPA HQ ORCR for comment, and developed preliminary list of facilities that include landfills, hazardous waste-permitted facilities and other potential waste disposal facilities.
- EPA completed documentation of conditions at six waste staging areas (Biloxi, Miss.; Pascagoula, Miss.; Dauphin Island, Ala.; Orange Beach, Ala.; Pensacola, Fla. and Panama City Beach, Fla.)

- EPA found no drinking water intakes at risk from oil, researching industrial intakes (not reported to EPA.)
- EPA maintaining contact and working with Governors of the potentially impacted states.
- EPA Emergency Operations center is fully staffed with air, water, waste, and communications teams to review, and post environmental information for the public as quickly as possible.